[9th July 1952

given by the Hon. Minister contains so many figures relating to the several officers, and it is not possible to remember all those figures. That is the difficulty of not only Sri Chidanandam, but also of others who have not expressed it. I wonder if the Hon. Speaker was able to follow all the figures. So, may I request you, Sir, to advise the present Ministers also to place such long answers on the table of the House?"

MR. SPEAKER :—"I know that it is the practice to place long answers on the table of the House for the benefit of hon. Members. I think the present answer is only a small one, and so there may not be any necessity to place the same on the table of the House."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"If you would permit me, Sir, I wish to state that I entirely agree with the suggestion that long answers and long statements containing figures, etc., must be placed on the table of the House, as we can save time and also give good opportunities to the Members to study the same. I shall certainly advise my colleagues to place such long answers on the table of the House and give a brief answer in the House."

Relief for the unemployed handloom workers.

*66 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to give immediate relief to the unemployed handloom workers who mainly depend upon this industry?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"The Government have recently sanctioned a scheme for the relief of distress among handloom weavers in the State who have been thrown out of employment due to the slump in the handloom cloth trade. The scheme will be worked through the agency of co-operative societies and will be introduced in all districts. The scheme will assure the weavers of a subsistence wage and continuous employment and also relieve them from the burden of marketing cloth as far as possible. The Government are also considering other steps to stabilize the industry and to enlarge the market for handloom cloth."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Are the Government aware that the scheme will not be applicable to Malabar, as the handloom factories are run there on a factory basis? In view of this, may I know what steps the Government have taken regarding Malabar?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"I go further and state that we are aware that Malabar is peculiarly situated with respect to so many matters. It is true that those factories come under the Factories Act. We therefore sent two Deputy Registrars to get in touch with the Collector of Malabar and to find out from the owners of factories if, firstly they will be agreeable to become members of co-operative societies and secondly, if they are not willing, whether, if

9th July 1952]

given all the facilities that the co-operative societies are given, they will be willing to work under the Collector of the District, and help the weavers. I cannot give a final answer, as the matter is still under negotiation."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" Is it a fact that the handloom weavers are in great difficulty in view of the fact that the number of power looms in textile mills has increased very greatly? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the peculiar conditions obtaining in Malabar, will the Government be pleased to give unemployment allowances to the handloom weavers in order to enable them to purchase their rations, as, at present, they are not able to purchase their rations and are starving? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I have already said, the policy of the Government at the present moment is to work the scheme through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies so that the suffering weavers may be assured of a subsistence wage."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" As a measure of relief, will the Hon. Minister consider the question of exporting the handloom cloth to foreign countries through the co-operative societies of the handloom weavers, rather than through individuals? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The question with regard to the possibility of exporting our cloth to foreign countries is being examined; it is not through co-operative societies, but through other agencies."

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" Do these relief measures include those engaged in spinning yarn also? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" Will the Government restrict certain varieties of cloth for the handloom trade alone? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" That is also being examined. At the present moment we are considering what are the varieties that the handlooms must manufacture and what are those that should be reserved for mill manufacture."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that a large number of people in Malabar are without employment and are in great distress, and in view of the fact that it will take several months for the Government to give any aid to these suffering people in the normal course, may I know whether the Government will consider the suggestion to give immediate relief to these poor people by way of cash loans or free rations? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The present policy of the Government is to encourage handloom weavers working through co-operative societies. The question of Malabar is being specially examined. I have nothing more to add to what I have said already."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" May I know what steps have been taken by the Government to dispose of the existing accumulated stocks? The scheme of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is only in respect of future production through co-operative societies."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I would like to tell the hon. Member that the present scheme of the Government is only to sell or help the sale of future production. The Government do not at the present moment wish to meddle with the existing stocks."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" May I know whether the present scheme does not apply to master-weavers? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" We are not concerned with master-weavers. Our present scheme is intended to help the poor weavers who are suffering now."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether new co-operative societies will be established in rural areas? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. Wherever there are no primary co-operative societies, we have asked the Registrar to form new societies and all those who want to join the existing or new societies for the purpose of working the scheme will be advanced Rs. 25 each to meet their share capital which will be recovered in easy instalments."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" May I know whether the Government have collected the names of unemployed workers in the handloom factories? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—"May I know what the other agencies contemplated by the Government with regard to the export of handloom cloth to foreign countries are? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The normal agencies, business and commercial enterprises that have been in the trade for centuries and which, for some reason or other, were not able to do the business till now."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Are the Government aware that due to unemployment and starvation, there are many cases of suicide among the handloom weavers? I can give instances where these occurred in *Uppada*."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I thank the hon. Member for the information. However regrettable it may be, it has nothing to do with the present question."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" In respect of these co-operative societies, may I know whether the Government have fixed any maximum number of members for any district? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It was originally suggested that Salem should have 2,000 members and the

rest of the districts should have 1,000 each. Now that there are many weavers, there will be no restriction on the number that should be admitted to these societies."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In his Budget speech, the Hon. the Finance Minister stated that the entire capital required to be paid by the handloom weavers would be advanced by the Government, whereas the Hon. the Industries Minister now tells us that 50 per cent of the capital will have to be met by the weavers. May I know which statement—either the Hon. the Finance Minister's or the Hon. the Industries Minister's—are we to believe? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" With regard to the existing societies we said that the share capital will be met by the Government. But with regard to the new societies we said that the new members must pay 50 per cent of the share capital and the remaining portion of the share capital could be covered on loan basis."

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM :—" Are the Government making a general survey of the situation and affording relief wherever necessary and wherever people are starving, or are the Government giving relief only to areas where there is strong agitation? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" On the introduction of this scheme, we have circularised all the co-operative societies in this State and asked them to tell us if they required our assistance immediately."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Will the Hon. the Labour Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are prepared to appoint official or non-official committees to give immediate relief to the handloom workers in Malabar? "

THE HON DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I would like to know what will be the functions of these committees, before I give an answer."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The function of these committees will be to see that the workers do not die of starvation and to offer such assistance as is necessary to enable them to live."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I want notice."

SRI B. SANKARAYYA :—" ఈ స్కీములన్నీ ఆచరణలోకి వచ్చేటందు చేనేత కార్మికులను ఎదుర్కొని నిరుద్యోగ సమస్య పరిష్కరించుటకొరకు ప్రభుత్వం ఏమైనా ఏర్పాట్లు చేస్తుందా ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir, it is only to relieve unemployment that we have brought this new scheme."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Are the Government aware that there are relief committees in Malabar and in various other places (relief committees meaning committees which are to see that the weavers are not in distress) and will the Government consider the question of making grants or subventions to these committees so that they may do their work efficiently? " 9-15 a.m.

[9th July 1952

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I have stated, the present policy of the Government is only to help the weavers by giving them subsistence wages wherever they are suffering. If the relief committees are going to be of any value at all, we shall certainly consider the suggestion from this point of view."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the statement of the Hon. the Minister for Industries that it is only in respect of the existing co-operative societies the Government will supply the full capital, may I ask whether the Government are aware that nearly 60 per cent of the handloom weavers are not today in the co-operative societies and, therefore, the contemplated help is not going to reach even half of them? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, out of 8 lakhs of handloom weavers, nearly 3 lakhs are in the co-operative fold, and when this scheme is extended, we will get another 3 or 4 lakhs more so that there will be nearly 6 lakhs or 7 lakhs of people in the co-operative fold. We shall examine the question, however, again if it is brought to our notice that this does not give adequate relief to the weavers."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know when the Government are going to put this scheme into operation? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Already, Sir, in 15 districts—Salem, Coimbatore, Malabar, Chingleput, Madurai, South Arcot, North Arcot, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and the Ceded Districts—the scheme has come into operation."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" May I know whether the Government have, with reference to the suggestion of the Hon. the Finance Minister in his Budget speech, issued orders to all the departments to use handloom cloth and whether it will not be desirable to find out if there is any market for handloom products in foreign countries so that the large stocks accumulated by co-operative societies may be released? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" With regard to the Government orders, I may tell the hon. Member that we have circularised all the departments and asked them to let us know their requirements so that we can supply handloom cloth as early as possible. With regard to the second part of the question, we are also in correspondence with our trade delegates in other countries to see what the possibility is of increasing the export of our products, by participating in exhibitions in those countries and by exhibiting the products in the embassies themselves."

SRI A. RAMASWAMY THEVAR :—" Will the Government issue similar circulars to local bodies also to use handloom cloth? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I accept the valuable suggestion of the hon. Member and shall do the needful."